

Serial No. 09/672,373
60130-899
00MRA0028

REMARKS

Claims 10, 11, 14-21, 23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that the term "free edge" is not supported by the specification. The term "free edge" is found on page 6, line 24 of the application as originally filed. The specification states that the "the exterior sheeting 14 serves as the closing element for an adequately large access opening 22, formed at the free edge of the essentially pot-shaped or tub-shaped interior sheet metal." As shown in the attached dictionary definition from the website www.m-w.com, the term free means "not fastened." A "free edge" of the interior sheet metal is the edge of the interior sheet metal that is not connected to anything, and is therefore "free" and able to form the access opening. That is, the free edge of the interior sheet metal is not fastened to any other component and can therefore define the access opening. The claimed invention is definite.

Claims 10, 11, 23 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Szerdahelyi. Szerdahelyi does not disclose an access opening formed at a free edge of an interior sheet metal. In Szerdahelyi, a vehicle door includes a cutout opening 10 in an inner door panel 1b (Figure 1a). The cutout opening 10 is not formed at a free edge of the interior door panel 1b. Instead, the cutout opening 10 is formed in a central portion of the interior door panel 1b. The central portion of the interior door panel 1b is not located at the edge of the door and is certainly not located at the free edge of the vehicle door. Szerdahelyi does not disclose an access opening formed at a free edge of an interior sheet metal as claimed. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 27-29 are also not anticipated by Szerdahelyi. Szerdahelyi does not disclose a carrier module including a window lift mechanism that closes an opening of a closing plate that closes an opening to an access opening. In Szerdahelyi, a window lift mechanism 31 is mounted to a module support 3 (column 3, lines 36 to 38). A manual operating unit 5 and a side airbag 6, which the Examiner is calling the carrier module, are also assembled on the module support 3. The window lift mechanism 31 is not carried by the manual operating unit 5 and the side airbag 6, but is carried by the module support 3. Szerdahelyi does not disclose a carrier module including a window lift mechanism that closes an opening of a closing plate that closes an opening to an access opening as claimed. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

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Claims 14-21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szerdahelyi in view of Carlo. The Examiner states that it would be obvious to provide the carrier module with two guide rails and a brace in Szerdahelyi because of Carlo. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 14-22 and 24 depend on patentable independent claim 10 and are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Adding Carlo to Szerdahelyi still does not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention because neither of the references disclose an access opening formed at a free edge of an interior sheet metal. The Examiner states that the Board of Appeals has stated that the combination is reasonable. However, neither reference discloses an access opening formed at a free edge of an interior sheet metal, and therefore the combination of the references does not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention. This feature was not presented in the claims before the board. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 10, 11, 14-21, 23 and 25-29 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

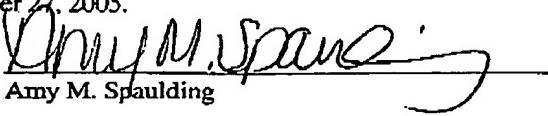


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Amy M. Spaulding

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Thesaurus

70 entries found for **free**. The first 10 are listed below.
To select an entry, click on it. For more results, click here.

free[1,adjective] Go
 free[2,transitive verb]
 free[3,adverb]
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 duty-free
 fancy-free

Main Entry: **1free** ▶

Pronunciation: 'frē

Function: *adjective*

Inflected Form(s): **fre·er; fre·est**

Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *frēo*; akin to Old High German *frī* free, Welsh *rhydd*, Sanskrit *priya* own, dear

1 a : having the legal and political rights of a citizen b : enjoying civil and political liberty *<free citizens>* c : enjoying political independence or freedom from outside domination d : enjoying personal freedom : not subject to the control or domination of another

2 a : not determined by anything beyond its own nature or being : choosing or capable of choosing for itself b : determined by the choice of the actor or performer *<free actions>* c : made, done, or given voluntarily or spontaneously

3 a : relieved from or lacking something unpleasant or burdensome *<free from pain>* *<a speech free of political rhetoric>* b : not bound, confined, or detained by force

4 a : having no trade restrictions b : not subject to government regulation c : *of foreign exchange* : not subject to restriction or official control

5 a : having no obligations (as to work) or commitments *<I'll be free this evening>* b : not taken up with

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commitments or obligations <a *free* evening>
6 : having a scope not restricted by qualification <a *free* variable>
7 a (1) : not obstructed or impeded : **CLEAR** (2) : not being used or occupied <waved with his *free* hand> **b** : not hampered or restricted in its normal operation
8 a : not fastened <the *free* end of the rope> **b** : not confined to a particular position or place; *also* : not having a specific opponent to cover in football <a *free* safety> **c** : capable of moving or turning in any direction <a *free* particle> **d** : performed without apparatus <*free* tumbling>
e : done with artificial aids (as pitons) used only for protection against falling and not for support <a *free* climb>
9 a : not parsimonious <*free* spending> **b** : **OUTSPOKEN** **c** : availing oneself of something without stint **d** : **FRANK**, **OPEN** **e** : overly familiar or forward in action or attitude **f** : **LICENTIOUS**
10 : not costing or charging anything
11 a (1) : not united with, attached to, combined with, or mixed with something else : **SEPARATE** <*free* ores> <a *free* surface of a bodily part> (2) : **FREESTANDING** <a *free* column> **b** : chemically uncombined <*free* oxygen> <*free* acids> **c** : not permanently attached but able to move about <a *free* electron in a metal> **d** : capable of being used alone as a meaningful linguistic form <the word *hats* is a *free* form> -- compare ⁵**BOUND** 7
12 a : not literal or exact <*free* translation> **b** : not restricted by or conforming to conventional forms <*free* skating>
13 : **FAVORABLE** -- used of a wind blowing from a direction more than six points from dead ahead
14 : not allowing slavery
15 : open to all comers
 - **free·ness** \triangleq /-n&s/ **noun**
 - **for free** : without charge
 synonyms **FREE**, **INDEPENDENT**, **SOVEREIGN**, **AUTONOMOUS** mean not subject to the rule or control of another. **FREE** stresses the complete absence of external rule and the full right to make all of one's own decisions <you're *free* to do as you like>. **INDEPENDENT** implies a standing alone; applied to a state it implies lack of connection with any other having power to interfere with its citizens, laws, or policies <the colony's struggle to become *independent*>. **SOVEREIGN** stresses the absence of a superior power and implies supremacy within a thing's own domain or sphere <separate and *sovereign* armed services>. **AUTONOMOUS** stresses independence in matters pertaining to self-government <in this denomination each congregation is regarded as *autonomous*>.

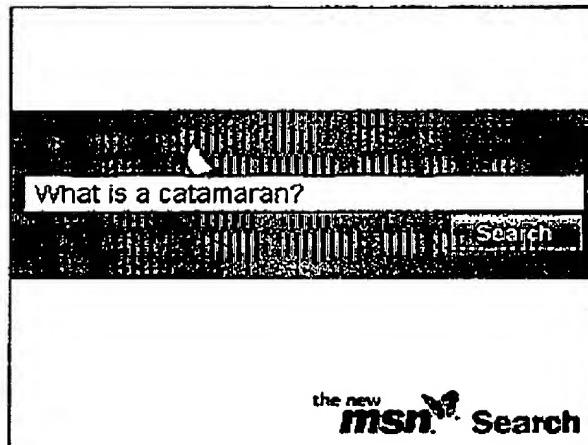
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Pronunciation Symbols

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